

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8 and add new Claims 9-25 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A recording method for use in a recording system for completing an image by multiple scans of a recording head, the method comprising the steps of:

reading an image recorded by a predetermined number of scans among the multiple scans of the recording head except at least the last scan;

correcting, based on a result of reading the image in the reading step, data for an image to be recorded by one ~~one~~ or more scans subsequent to the predetermined number of scans; and

correctively recording an image by performing one ~~one~~ or more scans subsequent to the predetermined number of scans in accordance with the corrected data.

2. (Original) A recording method according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined number of scans are all of the multiple scans except the last scan.

3. (Currently Amended) A recording method according to Claim 1, wherein the recording head is capable of discharging plural inks ~~being in the~~ that are substantially the same color, but ~~having~~ have different concentrations from each other, and

~~the correctively recording step performs~~ subsequent one or more scans perform recording by using the ink having a ~~lower~~ the lowest concentration among the plural inks.

4. (Currently Amended) A recording method according to Claim 1, wherein the recording head is an ink jet head capable of discharging ink droplets of plural sizes different from each other; and

the ~~correctively recording step performs~~ subsequent one or more scans perform recording by discharging the ink droplets having ~~a smaller~~ the smallest size among the ink droplets of plural sizes.

5. (Original) A recording method according to Claim 1, wherein the recording system performs recording by repeating main scan recording made by the recording head scanned in a main scanning direction and a sub-scan in which a recording medium is fed in a sub-scanning direction; and

the sub-scan is performed by feeding the recording medium through a distance that is smaller than a recording width of the recording head in the sub-scanning direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A recording method according to Claim 5, wherein the recording system is capable of recording a plurality of dots ~~formed by ink droplets~~ in one pixel area and performs ~~and performs~~ gradation recording depending on the number of dots formed in one pixel area.

7. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for scanning a recording head relative to a recording medium to record an image, the apparatus comprising:

recording control means for scanning the recording head multiple times relative to the recording medium to complete the image;

reading means for reading an image recorded on the recording medium by a predetermined number of scans among the multiple relative scans of the recording head except at least the last scan; and

~~correcting means for reading an image recorded by a predetermined number of scans among the multiple relative scans of the recording head except at least the last scan by the reading means and~~ correcting, based on a result of the reading means the image, data for an image to be recorded by one or more scans subsequent to the predetermined number of scans.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus including a recording head having a recording width corresponding to a recording area of a recording medium in a width direction thereof, the recording head recording an image while the recording medium is fed, the apparatus comprising:

a first recording head and at least a second recording head disposed in spaced relation in a feed direction of the recording medium;

reading means disposed at a position downstream of the first recording head and upstream of the last recording head in the feed direction of the recording medium to be able to read an image recorded by one or more recording heads upstream of the reading means ~~the first recording head~~; and

correcting means for correcting, based on a result of the reading means,  
data used for recording made by the downstream recording head ~~based on a result of reading the~~  
~~image, which has been recorded by the upstream recording head, by the reading means.~~

9. (New) A recording apparatus according the Claim 8, wherein the one or more recording heads upstream of the reading means record a larger ratio of the image than the one or more recording heads downstream of the reading means.

10. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the one or more recording heads upstream of the reading means record the entire image and the one or more recording heads downstream of the reading means only record corrections to the image based on the result of the correcting means.

11. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the one or more recording heads downstream of the reading means are manufactured with a higher precision than the one or more recording heads upstream of the reading means.

12. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the one or more recording heads downstream of the reading means record with ink having a lower concentration than the ink used by the one or more recording heads upstream of the reading means.

13. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the one or more recording heads downstream of the reading means record with ink droplets having a smaller size than the ink droplets used by the one or more recording heads upstream of the reading means.

14. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the correcting means subtracts the image data read by the reading means from input image data to obtain the data used for recording made by the one or more downstream recording heads.

15. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the image data read by the reading means is subjected to scaling for tone range adjustment prior to being used by the correcting means.

16. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the correcting means produces binary-coded data that represents the ink that is discharged from each discharge port of the one or more downstream recording heads, such binary-coded data is produced by simple binary-coding, dithering, a method using a mask, or an error dispersion method.

17. (New) A recording method according to Claim 1, wherein only a portion of the discharge ports of the recording head are used in the predetermined number of scans and a different portion of discharge ports of the recording head are used in the one or more scans subsequent to the predetermined number of scans.

18. (New) A recording method according to Claim 17, wherein the portion of the discharge ports of the recording head used in the one or more scans subsequent to the predetermined number of scans are manufactured with a higher precision than the portion of the discharge ports of the recording head used in the predetermined number of scans.

19. (New) A recording method according to Claim 1, wherein the correcting step subtracts the image data read by the reading means from input image data to obtain the corrected data.

20. (New) A recording method according to Claim 1, wherein the image data read by the reading step is subjected to scaling for tone range adjustment prior to being used in the correcting step.

21. (New) A recording method according to Claim 1, wherein the correcting step produces binary-coded data that represents the ink that is discharged from each discharge port of the recording head, such binary-coded data is produced by simple binary-coding, dithering, a method using a mask, or an error dispersion method.

22. (New) A recording method comprising:  
a first recording step for recording an image;  
a reading step for reading the image recorded by the first recording step;  
a correcting step for producing data to correct the image recorded in the first recording step based on the result of the reading step; and

a second recording step for recording the data produced in the correcting step on the image recorded in the first recording step.

23. (New) A recording method according to Claim 22, wherein the second recording step is performed with ink having a lower concentration than the ink used in the first recording step.

24. (New) A recording method according to Claim 22, wherein the second recording step is performed with ink droplets having a smaller size than the ink droplets used in the first recording step.

25. (New) A recording method according to Claim 22, wherein the second recording step is performed at a higher precision than the first recording step.